

Corps out for blood

By Kelsey Seeger, USACE Public Affairs

Like a sinister beginning to a scary but predictable horror movie, the Corps literally bled for a good cause in June.

As the “blood mobile” bus pulls up and inconspicuously parks near the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Albuquerque District office, a man however non-sinister looking, beckons Corps employees to enter.

James Jaffe, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District Safety Manager and the individual who has been organizing the Corps sponsored blood drives for the past ten years, estimates that

he has helped get at least 450 units of blood out of people and into blood banks.

The second quarter’s blood drive began at 11:00 a.m. and ended at 2:00 p.m. with up to 17 units of blood being collected from Corps employees.

“It is some effort on my part but it is good that the Corps supports this kind of drive here,” said Jaffe. “If management wasn’t behind this I couldn’t get anyone for the blood drive.”

Management at the Corps allows any

employee who donates blood to have up to four hours off, which also applies to employees that undergo phere-

sis, a process where the whole blood is drained into a machine called a “cell separator” that separates platelets, white blood cells and plasma and then returns the blood drained of certain percentage of these items to the donor.



Brian Jordan, US Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District Project Chemist donates blood in June.

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For some though the Corps quarterly blood drives are the only times that they give blood. Brian Jordan, a project chemist in Las Vegas, New Mexico is a regular blood donor at the Corps blood drives. This time he did the pheresis.

“I give blood each time it (the blood mobile) is at the Corps,” said Jordan. “He (Jaffe) doesn’t have to twist my arm, I usually do it voluntarily.”

Susan Shampine, Chief of the Operations Division and a regular blood donor since college, views giving blood as “part of (her) contribution to the community.”

“The influence that Jim (Jaffe) has had on my giving blood is by having the blood mobile here and making it easy to give, and taking a little time out of the day to do it,” said Shampine.

Shampine also goes down to the Blood Services office if she has missed an appointment in order to give blood.

The United Blood Services has non-profit community blood centers that provide blood

and its components as well as special services to patients to more than 500 hospitals in 18 states (California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana).

They also provide blood to over 15 million according to their website. 